

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 7006**

**BILL NUMBER:** SB 488

**NOTE PREPARED:** Dec 23, 2004

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** DeKalb Superior Courts.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Sen. Kruse

**BILL STATUS:** As Introduced

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**FUNDS AFFECTED:** X **GENERAL**  
**DEDICATED**  
**FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** State & Local

STATE IMPACT	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007
State Revenues			
State Expenditures		65,026	130,052
Net Increase (Decrease)		(65,026)	(130,052)

**Summary of Legislation:** This bill has the following provisions:

- A. It establishes an additional superior court in DeKalb County.
- B. It eliminates the DeKalb County small claims referee.

(The introduced version of this bill was prepared by the Commission on Courts. DeKalb County is ranked ninth by severity of need in the 2003 Weighted Caseload Statistical Report.)

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2005.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** This new court would begin operation on January 1, 2006. The estimated costs for a 12-month period are listed in the following table. (The expenditures for FY 2006 listed in the STATE IMPACT table, above, reflect 6 months of expenditures because the starting date of this court begins in the middle of the fiscal year.)

<b>Cost Components of Judge's Salary</b>		
Salary	Specified in statute	\$90,000
Life Insurance	0.36% of Salary	\$324
Health, Dental, and Vision	Blended rate estimated by the State Budget Agency	\$8,291
Social Security	7.65% of salary	\$6,885
Disability Insurance	2.28% of salary estimated by State Budget Agency	\$2,052
Judges Retirement Fund	35% of Salary	\$31,500
Judicial Center	Includes materials and postage, but not possible staffing	\$1,000
Eliminate small claims referee	Receives \$10,000 from state General Fund	(\$10,000)
<b>Total Cost for New Court:</b>		<b>\$130,052</b>

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** The county may need to hire additional support staff and find space for this new court. By eliminating the small claims referee position, DeKalb County will save \$10,000 per year.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** Office of State Court Administration, Indiana Judicial Conference.

**Local Agencies Affected:** Trial Courts in DeKalb County.

**Information Sources:** State Budget Agency.

**Fiscal Analyst:** Mark Goodpaster, 317-232-9852.